

Application No. 10/761,082

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 7, and 8 are rejected as being anticipated by Janssen.

Claim 1, from which the other claims are dependent, recites that the "control system caus[es] the roller pair to move a sheet in the *reverse direction* to receive a sticker from the sticker applicator, **and then** [moves] the sheet through the main nip in the *process direction*" (emphases added). The claimed actions are further explained in Paragraph 0016 of the Specification as filed (emphases added):

Because a sticker ST must be placed on a **trailing edge** of a sheet passing mainly through the **process direction**, the roller pair 20, 22 **is controlled to momentarily "back up" the sheet S** so that the trailing edge of the sheet S is pushed against the sticky (toward the right in the Figure) side of the sticker ST. At an appropriate moment, the applicator interposes a sticker ST in a path of a folded sheet S moving in the **reverse direction**. ... Once the sticker ST is placed on and folded over the trailing edge of sheet S, the direction of roller pair 20, 22 **is again reversed** to push the sheet through the **process direction** (to the right in the Figure) and to an output tray as desired.

This momentary "backing up" of the sheet, so that the sticker can be placed on the *trailing edge* of the sheet relative to the process direction, is not disclosed by Janssen. Looking at the sequence of events in Figure 5-9 of Janssen, it is clear that a sheet 30a in Janssen *always* moves in *one* direction (right to left in the Figures) and is **never** "backed up" to receive a sticker on its trailing edge. It is most clear from Figure 8 of Janssen that the sticker is placed on the leading edge of the moving sheet 30a, and therefore there would be no need to "back up" the moving sheet, as recited by the "reverse direction" language in claim 1. Absent any disclosure of "backing up," Janssen cannot anticipate claim 1 or its dependent claims.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 over Malachowski in view of Janssen. Malachowski shows a device for placing "tapes" 12a, 12b on the sides of a folded sheet 2, as shown in Figure 3B. The device 20 for applying the tapes, such as shown at Figure 4, is disposed along the side of a process

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direction in which the sheet 2 is moving: comparing the view of Figure 4 with column 5, lines 35-40 of Malachowski, it is clear that the basic direction of motion of sheet 2 is into or out of the page, and the tapes 12 are applied to the *sides* of a sheet 2 relative to its direction of motion. More to the point, the applying apparatus 20, as indicated by arrows near applicator 40, *itself* moves in and out relative to the side of the moving sheet 2. With regard to the language of claim 1, it is clear that at no point is a folded sheet 2 "backed up," or reversed on its basic direction of motion, to receive a tape or sticker on its *trailing* edge along its direction of motion. Because neither reference, Malachowski nor Janssen, disclose *reversing the direction of motion* of the sheet so the sheet can receive a sticker, nor suggest why such reversing would be desirable, claim 1 and its dependent claims cannot be obvious in view of the references.

The claims are therefore in condition for allowance.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment; however, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is hereby requested to call the undersigned attorney at (585) 423-3811, Rochester, NY.

Respectfully submitted,



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February 10, 2005
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